



July 12, 2007

North Carolina Division of Water Quality

NC Environmental Management Commission

Gentlemen:

RE: Water Supply Nutrient Strategy for B. Everett Jordan Reservoir

Good Evening. I am Loyse Hurley, President of Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities (CCEC). I live at 16 Matchwood in Pittsboro. Chatham Citizens for Effective Communities is a grassroots citizens organization who's purpose is to empower Chatham citizens to enhance Chatham's future. We have over 2000 people in Chatham County who are involved with our organization.

As you are aware, Jordan Lake is the source of drinking water for Chatham County as well as other down stream municipalities. We have watched the deterioration of this valuable water source over the years. In 2006, you declared Jordan Lake impaired. It is now 2007, and here we are, still "talking instead of acting". This degradation comes from point and non-point discharge sources including the up stream discharges of both nitrogen and phosphorous from sewage treatment plants. Stormwater runoff from both massive development and agricultural operations also contribute to the problem. This load on the lake has increased the nutrient levels with subsequent algae build up.

Chatham has just imposed a 1 year moratorium on residential development. Currently, the County is reviewing and up grading our ordinances, which include imposing more vigorous buffer requirements for the protection of Jordan Lake. This up grade of our ordinances will contain better protections for the watershed. Can the state do less? How long must we wait?

Our citizens are paying for the treatment of our lake water. They are concerned by the increase in trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids and total organic carbon, caused by the organics in the raw water and the necessary treatment. They are frightened and angry about their impact on their families health. The lake is also a recreational source which is rapidly becoming an unpleasant experience. We are appalled when we see the mess caused by the algae and sediment build up.

Remember, there is no health risk or individual cost up stream. We the citizens downstream have been paying! We've been paying by our increased costs and the potential damage to our health for their continued excused lack of responsibility for the damage already caused. Time has run out. The state is the only one who has the power to prevent this situation. It is time for you to act! We drink this water! Up streamers do not!

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